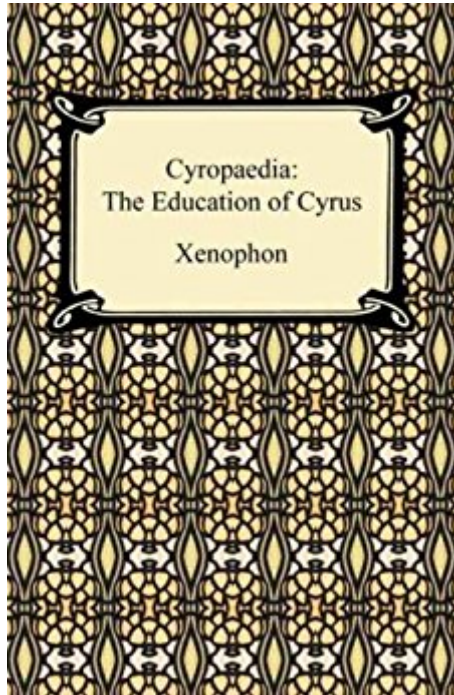


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# Cyropaedia: The Education Of Cyrus



## Synopsis

Written in the early fourth century BCE by a gentleman and soldier from Athens, "Cyropaedia" is an account of Cyrus the Great that escapes a simple genre placement. It is a sort of historical, political, biographical, fictional romance, encapsulating the sweeping type of narrative characteristic of Xenophon's works. The overall portrait of Cyrus is artistic, offering glimpses of this huge figure's character. Organized into eight books, the entire life of Cyrus the Great is told, from his descent and education to his stay in the Median court, and eventually his own kingship and monarchical views. Considered an important piece of literature by many historical figures, from Edmund Spenser to the Founding Fathers, "Cyropaedia" is an ancient text that contains a timeless relevance.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I like the idea of philosopher kings which is touched on in this book

I am so happy to read this book. It's so good for me to teach my children. I want you all to read this.

Great book.

If you are a political science fan this is a great book to add to your collection.

Not a great work of literature, but 5 stars for being really interesting and historically important. It isn't "the education of Cyrus"; it's a utopian novel about him. Xenophon was doing his own riff on Plato's Republic, by writing a fictional work about the ideal king. "Cyrus" here is modeled partly on the real Cyrus, partly on Agesilaus (king of Sparta in Xenophon's time), partly on Xenophon's ideas of the ideal ruler. The book traces him from early childhood (toughened by being fed on dry bread and watercress), through his rise as a warrior, to his kingship and finally his death. Always he was Xenophon's ideal: moderate, thoroughly in control of himself and the situation, decisive, respectful of authority, respectful of people in general, and a real detail man when it came to military organization and later to ruling. This book is probably the world's first novel, certainly the first utopian one, and a superb statement of the old-fashioned conservative position. For Xenophon, as for old-time serious conservatives in my childhood, hierarchies are natural and necessary; one can and should rise by merit and competence; some people--those competent, dynamic ones--are born to rule, the rest are born to obey; the rulers have a huge responsibility to take care of everything and everyone, the ruled have a responsibility to do what their position affords them to do and to do it as well as possible. Not my philosophy, but there is a nobility to it utterly lacking in what passes for "conservatism" today (i.e., racist hate, religious bigotry, and above all crushing anyone weaker). One problem is the treatment of non-elite women; on p. 96 they are disposed of as chattels, like sheep--but on p. 97 this is balanced by a tribute to love and to decent treatment of at least elite women. This sort of persistent attitude toward the people supposedly born to serve is the opposite of my utopia. Still, I think this is an important statement of the old-time conservative position, with all its virtues and defects. I keep coming back to Xenophon--not a great writer or thinker, but utterly open about his views and feelings; utterly fearless, and uninterested in catering to others' opinions; obviously a super-competent manager of men and land; and generally a fascinating person who took the trouble to give us detailed and revealing accounts of everything from war to farming to horsemanship to King Cyrus. The real Cyrus was no mean individual himself. Xenophon fails to mention the real Cyrus' greatest achievement: inventing freedom of religion as a governing principle.

Loved reading this book. Easy to read. I learned a lot. What sticks with me, besides the historical aspects, is the kindness and generosity of this man. No wonder he is so beloved and esteemed.

Book in excellent shape, arrived quickly, great price. Don't know what else there is. The book itself is a translation. Must have been made in the 19th century. English is a bit on the flowery side, but fairly accurate withal.

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